

Page 12, delete line 4 in its entirety.

Page 13, between lines 19-20, insert:

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

Page 14, delete line 7 in its entirety.

Page 17, delete line 19 in its entirety and insert the following new paragraphs:

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete appreciation of the invention and many of the attendant advantages thereof will be readily obtained as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of an embodiment of a digital camera according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a drawing showing an embodiment of a configuration of a line-of-sight detection unit;

Fig. 3 is a drawing showing the way a display screen is divided into a plurality of blocks in order to detect a point of fixation by the unit of one block;

Fig. 4 is a drawing showing the importance of the pixel of interest and positional relationship between the area of importance and the pixel of interest;

Fig. 5 is a drawing showing a Gaussian distribution function that defines levels of importance;

Fig. 6 is a drawing showing the way two areas of importance are specified in an image;

Fig. 7 shows the importance of position (x, y) in the image with respect to the first area of importance and the second area of importance;

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Fig. 8 is a drawing showing a contour pattern of importance in a case where the area of importance is defined as a small ellipse region of the image;

Fig. 9 is a drawing showing an example of importance that is quantized into five levels;

Fig. 10 is a block diagram showing a functional block configuration of an image processing unit;

Fig. 11 is a drawing showing quantized importance levels that are assigned to respective areas of an image with reference to an example in which the area of importance is an ellipse shape;

Fig. 12 is an example of blocks into which an image is divided horizontally and vertically;

Fig. 13 is an example of blocks having different shapes into which an image is divided;

Fig. 14 is a block diagram showing an example of a hardware configuration including an image output apparatus;

Fig. 15 is a flowchart showing a first embodiment of a process of making image quality vary depending on levels of importance;

Fig. 16 is a flowchart showing a second embodiment of a process of making image quality vary depending on levels of importance;

Fig. 17 is a drawing showing a configuration of a color filter in the case of a camera device being a primary color array CCD;

Fig. 18 is a drawing showing the pixel of interest and four neighboring pixels for the purpose of color interpolation processing;